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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Yugoslavia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Probable Course of Events Should Tito Die	DATE DISTR.	1 Oct. 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

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1. At a dinner for foreign correspondents given in February 1954, Tito was asked directly what would happen in Yugoslavia were he to die; he commented: "There would be no excitement and no danger of trouble to the Party. The Party is firmly established in this country on all levels." An initial analysis of the situation reveals, on the one hand, a Communist Party (Federation of Communists of Yugoslavia) which is in firm control and well-established, and, on the other hand, anti-Communist forces in Yugoslavia which are weak and unorganized. While on the Communist side there do exist several leaders who might potentially take over Tito's position following the latter's demise, there is no real personality on the opposition side to step forward.
2. Most respected on the Party cell level is Edvard Kardelj; he knows individually the great bulk of the Party members, he is the one consulted on strictly Party tactics, and he is known for his mastery of dialectics. The correspondent for Politika, who accompanied Tito on his recent visit to Ankara, was overheard expressing regret that Tito had to spend so much of his time on foreign affairs; he added, "It is lucky for us we have Kardelj to keep our socialist plans going within the country." It has been said, however, that while Kardelj would probably take over Yugoslavia at Tito's death, he is too "colorless" to survive, and on that score a Yugoslav Communist, in conversation with an Englishman, commented on the likeness of the political situation for both their countries: "When Churchill dies your country does not have a real personality to replace him, and when Tito dies we do not either."
3. Regardless of the relative strength of Kardelj's personality, however, should the latter succeed Tito as anticipated, his only potential source of concern

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might be opposition within Party ranks, since, as far as external opposition is concerned, even the United States has recognized and accepted the position of the present Communist regime in Yugoslavia as a legal government. There would probably be no major shakeup in the Government, with one of the present leaders, possibly Svetozar Vukmanovic-Tempo, moving into Kardelj's former position, but with most of the republic presidents and members of the Federal Executive Council retaining their present jobs. In the nature of a vague possible opposition, there is the possibility, at some time in the future, of a contest for power between Kardelj and Vukmanovic-Tempo, the latter being much more of a "personality" than Kardelj.



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